

**MINUTES
STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308**

January 19, 2009

9:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bill Kuhlke, Chairman
Larry Walker, Vice Chairman
Roy Herrington
Johnny Floyd
Sam Wellborn
Robert L. Brown, Jr.
Emory McClinton
Brandon Beach
Steve Farrow
David Doss
Raybon Anderson
Dana Lemon

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rudy Bowen

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Gena Abraham
Kevin Clark, COO
Buddy Gratton, Deputy Commissioner
Elizabeth Osmon
Earl Mahfuz
Gerald Ross
Jo Ann Chance
Sandra Burgess
Mike Thomas
Richard Sawyer
Ericka Davis

Chairman Bill Kuhlke opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Roy Herrington gave the invocation.

Chairman Kuhlke asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2008 meetings. Roy Herrington made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2008 meetings, seconded by Raybon Anderson and unanimously approved.*

Genetha Singleton, Assistant Director of Preconstruction, presented the projects proposed for the February 2009 Letting for approval. Chairman Kuhlke asked for a motion to approve. David Doss made a motion to approve the projects proposed for the February 2009 Letting, seconded by Dana Lemon and unanimously approved.*

Richard Sawyer, Chief Acquisition Officer, gave a presentation on GDOT's Procurement Readiness for the stimulus package.*

Gerald Ross, Chief Engineer, gave a brief update on the Economic Stimulus Package, which included requests from the locals and an e-mail account for stimulus requests.* Gerald Ross stated that the project list is not complete for the stimulus package because all the information has not been received from Congress.

Mike Thomas, Director of Planning & Data, stated there were no revisions to the Construction Work Program for January 2009. Mike Thomas also presented the revisions proposed for the Construction Work Program for February 2009 to be approved at the February 2009 Board meeting.*

Scott Zehngraft, General Operations Manager, gave a presentation on Roundabouts, which included where roundabouts are in Georgia. There was some discussion regarding roundabouts. David Doss suggested that DOT staff make a presentation to the ACCG and GMA on roundabouts and get the public perspective on roundabouts. Bill Kuhlke suggested that staff put the information the website regarding roundabouts. Commissioner Evans stated that DOT staff will work on the policy and will pursue roundabouts and increase public awareness.

Commissioner Gena Evans gave her monthly report, which included an update on the Beltline meeting, next steps for PPI and rating agency meeting for GARVEE Bonds.

Commissioner Evans requested that the Board to approve the following Comprehensive Zoning Resolution. Roy Herrington made a motion to approve the following Comprehensive Zoning Resolution, seconded by Emory McClinton and unanimously approved.

Resolution

WHEREAS, the State Transportation Board did, in regular session on November, 18, 1971 adopt a policy on outdoor advertising; and

WHEREAS, said policy adopted by the State Transportation Board contained a Schedule "A" pertaining to cities and counties in Georgia which maintained comprehensive zoning plans; and

WHEREAS, that State Transportation Board has directed its staff to make necessary recommendations in order that Schedule "A" of the said Outdoor Advertising Policy may be kept current with changing conditions in cities and counties regarding comprehensive zoning plans; and

WHEREAS, the State Transportation Board did, in regular session on December, 18, 1975, adopt a resolution that said that the Board would review all comprehensive zoning plans submitted for initial approval, to ascertain and determine if said zoning plans can be certified for purposes of outdoor advertising consistent with the State and Federal Law or the Federal/State Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has determined that the following recommendation is appropriate regarding comprehensive zoning plans:

<u>CITY/COUNTY</u>	<u>COMPREHENSIVE ZONING</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Liberty County	Amendment to Comprehensive Zoning Plan, #084-019	Approve

NOW, THEREFORE, be resolved that the State Transportation Board, in regular session this date does hereby amend Schedule "A" of the Department of Transportation Outdoor Advertising Policy by including the above recommendations.

Resolved this 15TH day of January 15, 2009.

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Commissioner Evans requested that the Board to approve the following Comprehensive Zoning Resolution. Roy Herrington made a motion to approve the following Comprehensive Zoning Resolution, seconded by Dana Lemon and unanimously approved.

Resolution

WHEREAS, the State Transportation Board did, in regular session on November, 18, 1971 adopt a policy on outdoor advertising; and

WHEREAS, said policy adopted by the State Transportation Board contained a Schedule "A" pertaining to cities and counties in Georgia which maintained comprehensive zoning plans; and

WHEREAS, that State Transportation Board has directed its staff to make necessary recommendations in order that Schedule "A" of the said Outdoor Advertising Policy may be kept current with changing conditions in cities and counties regarding comprehensive zoning plans; and

WHEREAS, the State Transportation Board did, in regular session on December, 18, 1975, adopt a resolution that said that the Board would review all comprehensive zoning plans submitted for initial approval, to ascertain and determine if said zoning plans can be certified for purposes of outdoor advertising consistent with the State and Federal Law or the Federal/State Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has determined that the following recommendation is appropriate regarding comprehensive zoning plans:

<u>CITY/COUNTY</u>	<u>COMPREHENSIVE ZONING</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
McIntosh County	Amendment to Comprehensive Zoning W/S 17 N/S king Road	Approve

NOW, THEREFORE, be resolved that the State Transportation Board, in regular session this date does hereby amend Schedule "A" of the Department of Transportation Outdoor Advertising Policy by including the above recommendations.

Resolved this 15TH day of January, 2009.

Commissioner Abraham requested that the Board to approve the following Comprehensive Zoning Resolution. There was some discussion regarding the resolution. Raybon Anderson made a motion to defer the following comprehensive zoning resolution until the next meeting, seconded by Roy Herrington and unanimously approved.

Resolution

WHEREAS, the State Transportation Board did, in regular session on November, 18, 1971 adopt a policy on outdoor advertising; and

WHEREAS, said policy adopted by the State Transportation Board contained a Schedule "A" pertaining to cities and counties in Georgia which maintained comprehensive zoning plans; and

WHEREAS, that State Transportation Board has directed its staff to make necessary recommendations in order that Schedule "A" of the said Outdoor Advertising Policy may be kept current with changing conditions in cities and counties regarding comprehensive zoning plans; and

WHEREAS, the State Transportation Board did, in regular session on December, 18, 1975, adopt a resolution that said that the Board would review all comprehensive zoning plans submitted for initial approval, to ascertain and determine if said zoning plans can be certified for purposes of outdoor advertising consistent with the State and Federal Law or the Federal/State Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has determined that the following recommendation is appropriate regarding comprehensive zoning plans:

<u>CITY/COUNTY</u>	<u>COMPREHENSIVE ZONING</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Bulloch County	Amendment to Comprehensive Parcel No. 108000019000	Deny

NOW, THEREFORE, be resolved that the State Transportation Board, in regular session this date does hereby amend Schedule "A" of the Department of Transportation Outdoor Advertising Policy by including the above recommendations.

Resolved this 15TH day of January, 2009.

Sam Wellborn gave a report from the Finance Committee. Sam Wellborn stated that Earl Mahfuz, Assistant Treasurer, gave an update on Right-of-Way de-authorizations to date. Greg Mayo, Director of Construction, gave update on final acceptances on project close-outs. Sam Wellborn also stated that Chris Jones gave an update on the motor fuel collections and presented the Amended FY 09 and FY 10 Budget Request.

Sandra Burgess, Deputy General Counsel and Matt Cline gave Legal Update, which included the Douglas Asphalt Case. There was some discussion regarding the Douglas Asphalt Case. Chairman Kuhlke asked for motion to go into Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel issues. Steve Farrow made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel issues, seconded by Robert Brown and unanimously approved.

Raybon Anderson made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Rudy Bowen and unanimously approved. Chairman Kuhlke stated that no action was taken.

Larry Walker gave a report from the Administrative committee on behalf of Chairman Rudy Bowen and stated that there was a report on changes to the Department's Human Resources policy and an update on Board policies. Mr. Walker stated that the committee would be asked to approve the updated Board policies at the February meeting.

David Doss gave a report from the Alternative Finance committee and stated that Georgia Transportation Partners gave an update on the Northwest Corridor project. Serco gave a presentation on ideas for alternative financing options. Mr. Doss made a motion to ask staff to develop a request for proposal (RFP) on the concepts presented by Serco, seconded by Roy Herrington and unanimously approved. Mr. Doss stated that Commissioner Evans gave an update on PPIs.

Larry Walker gave a report from the Intermodal committee and stated that Jacoby Development gave a presentation on the Former Ford Assembly Plant Redevelopment in Hapeville and that David Doss gave an update from the High Speed Ground Transportation Steering Committee. There was also a discussion on Georgia's selection to receive an aviation block grant and the vision for the Department's Intermodal division.

Dana Lemon gave a report from the Legislative committee and stated that there was a report on how the Department tracks legislation and Chris Tomlinson updated the Board in the February Board advocacy trip to Washington, DC.

Raybon Anderson gave a report from the joint Statewide Transportation Plan/Program Delivery committee and stated that the committee voted to recommend approval of the IT3 resolution to the full Board. Roy Herrington asked for a motion to waive the 10-day rule, seconded by Robert Brown and unanimously approved. Raybon Anderson asked for a motion to approve the following resolution in support of IT3, seconded by Robert Brown and unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE IT3 AS A STRATEGIC CONCEPT FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA; TO ENCOURAGE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ENABLE ADEQUATE RESOURCING OF THE CONCEPT; AND TO FULLY COMMIT TO "EXECUTE WITH URGENCY"

WHEREAS, Georgia is the 3rd fastest growing state population in the nation; ranked 17th in job creation; ranked 23rd in GDP growth; and has the 2nd lowest transportation resources per person in the US; and

WHEREAS, over the last 20 years, Georgia has underinvested in its transportation assets and the lack of improvement to these assets has contributed to performance gaps on the transportation system and put Georgia's future quality of life and economic growth at risk; and

WHEREAS, the economic benefits of changing "business as usual" in transportation are compelling and have led to the development of a disciplined, outcome-focused transportation investment strategy entitled *Investing in Tomorrow's Transportation Today* (IT3); and

WHEREAS, IT3 focused on four goals and six primary objectives to improve Georgia's transportation network performance, and it recommended a set of bold investments across three scenarios costing between \$91 to \$148 billion (2008 dollars, or \$150 to \$257 billion in year of expenditure) resulting in significant economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the transportation investments will yield approximately \$500-\$590 billion (2008 dollars) in economic benefit over a 30 year period and 320,000 jobs over a 20 year period; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Regional Commission, Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, Georgia Department of Transportation, State Road and Tollway Authority, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority and Transit Planning Board held a Joint Boards meeting on January 7, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the meeting was to chart a new course for transportation; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the meeting, the Boards supported the need to endorse IT3 as a strategic concept; encourage the General Assembly to enable adequate resourcing of the concept; and to fully commit to "execute with urgency."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. Endorses IT3 as a strategic transportation concept for the State of Georgia; and
2. Encourages the General Assembly to enable adequate resourcing of the concept; and
3. Provides its full commitment to "execute with urgency."
- 4.

Under new business, Jane Smith, State Transportation Data Administrator, presented the 2009-2010 State map.

Larry Walker presented the following resolution honoring Buddy Gratton. Dana Lemon made a motion to waive the 10 Day Rule to adopt the following resolution, seconded by Roy Herrington and unanimously approved. Larry Walker made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Dana Lemon and unanimously approved.

A Resolution By The State Transportation Board

WHEREAS, Edwin Howard (Buddy) Gratton Jr. resides in Lawrenceville, Georgia, with his wife Karen and daughters Kelsey and Samantha; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Gratton graduated from the University of Florida in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, and in 1986 earned a Master of Science in Civil Engineering (Structures) from the Georgia Institute of Technology; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Gratton joined the Georgia Department of Transportation in 1983, serving as a Bridge Design Engineer 2, 3 and 4 before being named State Bridge Maintenance Engineer in 1993; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in conducting and managing the safety inspections and subsequent re-openings of hundreds of middle and south Georgia bridges affected by flooding associated with Tropical Storm Alberto in 1994; and

WHEREAS, he was named Assistant State Maintenance Engineer in 1996 and in 1999 was appointed Executive Assistant to the Chief Engineer and then State Maintenance Engineer; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Gratton quickly rose through the ranks as Metro Atlanta District Engineer and Director of Preconstruction; and

WHEREAS, he successfully administered the letting to construction of some 90 interstate highway intersection improvement projects valued at more than \$330 million between 2000 and 2004; and

WHEREAS, in September of 2006 in recognition of his achievement, sound judgment and leadership, he was selected to be the Deputy Commissioner of the Department; and

WHEREAS, during his 26 years with the Department his responsibilities have included oversight of the Division of Field Districts, Division of Equal Employment Opportunity, the Division of Operations, which included the Offices of Maintenance, Traffic Operations, Utilities and Equipment Management and the Office of State Aid Administration; and

WHEREAS, during his career he also oversaw the Offices of Environment and Location, Right of Way, Road Design, Urban Design, Consultant Design/Program Delivery, Bridge Design and Office of Communications, Office of Human Resources and Division of Information Technology; and

WHEREAS, he has done so with the utmost professionalism and integrity, helping guide the Department through its challenges, including initiating and bringing to fruition quality initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Gratton is a Registered Professional Engineer and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Georgia DOT Engineers Association and the Georgia Partners for Transportation Quality Initiative Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, his career has been notable for his tireless devotion to the Department and its employees as well as to the Citizens of Georgia, and his leadership will be greatly missed.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the State Transportation Board recognizes Buddy Gratton for his lifetime contributions to the Department and each member of the Board offers heartfelt best wishes to him for a healthy and happy retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a suitable copy be provided to Buddy Gratton in recognition of his devoted and commendable service to the Department.

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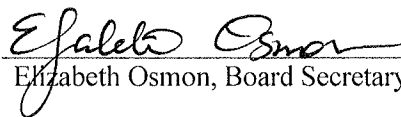
There being no further business, Chairman Kuhlke asked for a motion to adjourn. Raybon Anderson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Roy Herrington and unanimously approved.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Kuhlke", written over a horizontal line.

Bill Kuhlke, Chairman

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Osmon", written over a horizontal line.

Elizabeth Osmon, Board Secretary

***Denotes documentation in file.**